



SPECIAL COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MARCH 4, 2013 6 P.M.

Special Meeting

The Special meeting of the Common Council of the City of Middletown was held in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building on Monday, March 4, 2013 at 6 p.m.

Present

Deputy Mayor Robert P. Santangelo and Council Members Thomas J. Serra, Ronald P. Klattenberg, Mary A. Bartolotta, Hope Kasper, Grady L. Faulkner, Jr., Philip J. Pessina, Joseph E. Bibisi, Linda Salafia, Todd G. Berch, and Deborah Kleckowski; Sergeant-at-arms Police Chief William McKenna, and Common Council Clerk Marie O. Norwood.

Absent

Mayor Daniel T. Drew, Councilman Gerald E. Daley, and Corporation Counsel Daniel B. Ryan.

Also Present

Public Works Director William Russo, Finance Director Carl Erlacher, Director of IT William Oliver, Planning, Conservation, and Development Director William Warner, Water and Sewer Director Guy Russo, Parking Director Geen Thazhampallath, City Attorney Brig Smith, Deputy City Attorney Kori Wisneski, Acting Personnel Director Kathy Morey, Chief of Police William McKenna, Recreation Supervisor Deb Stanley, Tax Assessor Damon Braasch, Fire Chief Gary Ouellette, Director of Communications Wayne Bartolotta, Director of Human Relations Faith Jackson, Director of Health Joseph Havlicek, MD, Arts Coordinator Stephan Allison, City and Town Clerk Sandra Driska, Emergency Management Director Bruce Driska, Russell Library Director Arthur Meyers, Joseph Samolis Administrative Aide to the Mayor and 3 members of the public.

Meeting Called to Order

The Acting Chair, Deputy Mayor Robert P. Santangelo calls the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. He asks Guy Russo, Director of Water and Sewer to lead the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Call of Meeting Read

The Call of the meeting is read and accepted. The Acting Chair declares this call a legal call and the meeting a legal meeting.

Workshop Opens

The Acting Chair opens Questions to Directors workshop at 6:05 p.m.

Councilman Berch asks to address questions to Bill Russo, regarding the zero waste community initiative. Mr. Russo comes forward with Recycling Coordinator Kim O'Rourke and Krishna Winston, Chair of the Resource Recycling Committee.

Krishna Winston asks do you want me to address the resolution. Councilman Berch responds yes, to bring people up to speed. Ms. Winston states they were approached by the EPA in Boston because we have a strong Recycling Commission and program working on all aspects of reduction, reuse and recycling. The EPA wanted to know if we would be interested in moving toward a zero waste community and it is an international movement and the idea is a business proposition. We have to think everything manufactured and thrown away has to be made of resources and they are limited in our world. A statistic she ran into last year was if everyone in the world had the kind of standard of living Americans had we would need five planets to provide resources to maintain the standard of living

Noted for the Record

Councilwoman Kasper takes her seat at 6:05 p.m.

Ms Winston states we need to save resources and manufacture things that are durable and reuse all materials we can. We have been working on this and doing waste audits and setting goals as to the amount of resources we can recycle.

Noted for the Record

Councilman Klattenberg takes his seat at 6:06 p.m.

We are stuck in our recycling; we divert 25% of the waste stream and we have been doing this since 1991. The State has established a goal of 50% diversion by 2024 and we want to adopt the goal and pass or exceed it. It is an ambitious program and will involve all sectors of the community. Councilman Berch asks about informing the public. Ms. Winston responds they are to conduct waste audits we have done one at city hall and we will do one at United Way. We have a pledge on the website Councilman Berch states it is under the purview of the Council, how would the recycling initiative fit in with the events we have. How can we better achieve your initiatives for zero waste? Ms. Winston responds they present opportunities to educate and offer recycling

opportunities to be available. There are many ways to start raising consciousness. Children can go home and when we first starting recycling, the children were among the most important advocates. They were very much in tune with the notion of saving resources. Over time, we got lazy; we need a new push. Councilman Berch states the initiative through the Park and Recreation programs has been successful for recycling during the camps. Ms. O'Rourke responds we are looking to improve, but we are working closely with improving recycling with the programs in the summer and that is part of the programs. Councilman Berch states that might be part of the program. If the Council sees fit to adopt it, the actions of the Council will help and get the program started. Ms. Winston states we need to change our ways.

Councilman Pessina states when Kim started out and at the police we started a youth program and that is what the children did; they were the igniter. It is a three legged stool. The children and the youth in the city make things happen.

The Acting Chair asks for other questions to other directors and recognizes Councilman Serra. He asks Mr. Russo about the Military Museum grant; who is it under. Mr. Russo responds Public Works, but Parks and Recreation are involved; a meeting is scheduled for a week from Friday. He has the Public Works Commissioner, Councilman Berch who also sits on the Parks and Recreation Commission. We will start there.

Councilwoman Kleckowski is recognized and the Acting Chair asks if she has questions for this director; she does not. The Acting Chair recognizes Councilman Pessina. Councilman Pessina states we will approve the money for the plow, how soon can you get it done. Mr. Russo responds it is done and we are borderline for Wednesday night. Councilwoman Kleckowski asks to speak to the Town Clerk and Registrar of Voters. Janice Gionfriddo, Republican Registrar of Voters, states we hope that you will approve our emergency plan and the State provided them with a model plan due to the fact we have had two years in a row severe weather just before an election. The plan also includes the solution for the shortage of ballots for various reasons. They did implement a plan and hope it will be approved tonight. Ms Gionfriddo states Sandra Faraci could not be here tonight because of minor dental surgery done late today. We hope you will approve this and it will be sent to the State of Connecticut and will be the City's emergency plan and if there is a dire emergency or natural disaster, we hope we will be involved with the emergency planning if an alternate polling place has to be decided upon. There are also some emergency plans due to medical emergencies at a polling place. We have not had an emergency at a polling place before and the moderators will have the plan in hand.

Councilwoman Kleckowski asks on solutions for ballot shortages about copies made and will the only copiers be available in the Town Clerk or Registrars' office? She assumes there are not copiers at the voting places. Ms. Gionfriddo states she would hope she would know ahead of time if there were a shortage of ballots; they have not had this problem. Councilwoman Kleckowski states printers can be used as copiers. Ms Gionfriddo states if copies are made, they would have to be in the auxiliary bin and hand counted. Councilwoman Kleckowski states if she is at Wesley, and there are no ballots, she doesn't want to wait 20 minutes. She continues, on page 3 loss of power, it reads the moderator should immediately call and should that say will and be a specific direction. People don't take should as should; where all the shoulds are can it read will because her concern is indecision and when it comes up, she will move to change it to will. Ms. Gionfriddo states you can do that and if it happens, they will incorporate this at election briefing and go over this so they know if something occurs at the polling place, what to do. Councilwoman Kleckowski asks if there are alternate places already if a place loses power and if they go to a specific place. Ms Gionfriddo states they were not sure where a generator might be and that is why they want to be included with emergency planning. The voting machines have a back-up battery. Councilwoman Kleckowski asks if City Hall would be back up. Ms Gionfriddo responds City Hall is one of the places. The fire house could serve as an extra district polling place. We would assume they would go over it with emergency management if something happens to find out what areas have generators. Councilwoman Kleckowski states an emergency plan, it should be more specific. Ms Gionfriddo responds the State asked us to put a basic plan together and it follows their model and we followed other towns to have a plan in place due to severe weather. Councilwoman Kleckowski suggests they move forward with something more specific; not everyone doing this may not necessarily be here for the next cycle. Ms Gionfriddo states we would have to review it every election. Councilwoman Kleckowski states maybe that should be in here.

Councilman Serra states the should, should be shall. He asks who makes the final determination of an emergency. Ms Gionfriddo states the Registrars should be included. Councilman Serra states the Registrar makes the decision. Ms Gionfriddo responds yes, based on the emergency planning. Councilman Serra states the determination is with both the Democratic and Republican Registrar or the Town Clerk or the Emergency Management Center. Ms Driska states the Emergency Management Center declares the emergency and once they declare the emergency then they would decide if polling places have to be changed. Ms Driska states this was gone through by the Emergency Management Director.

Councilman Klattenberg states on item 2 the Registrar of Voters will keep a list of poll workers or does it mean additional individuals have to be brought in. Ms Gionfriddo responds sometimes they don't hire every poll worker during an election and they will try to have a list; they have one, if need be. It is a hard thing to call someone at 6 a.m. and say someone cannot be at the polls and would you come in. It will be hard, but they will try to establish a list. If we know in advance there is an emergency, we will have extra people on hand. She states an election cannot be cancelled and she can't imagine what would happen with a blizzard on Election Day. The State would have had to cancel. We are in touch with the State during the emergencies we have had and we were on conference calls with the 169 towns.

Councilman Pessina states to clarify, if it is an emergency that happens; Ms Gionfriddo responds correct. Councilman Pessina states the other point to Councilwoman Kleckowski's comments, her revisions are important in any kind of emergency operation plan and he hopes they take the suggestion and put it in there because things happen.

Councilwoman Salafia is recognized and states she would like to address questions to a different director. She asks for Park and Recreation. Deb Stanley comes forward. Councilwoman Salafia states you have an addition to the agenda for \$70,000; Ms Stanley states she did not know it was on there and is not prepared to answer it.

Councilman Berch asks for a point of order. Councilman Pessina states it is for the inclusion programming that goes along with the staffing and it is self-explanatory. Councilman Serra states it is state and federal government programming. He looks to the clerk for an explanation. The Council Clerk responds these are programs paid for by fees charged and collected by Park and Recreation; in order to pay the people providing the programs, the money is moved via a grant confirmation form into their checking account. Ms Stanley responds; yes. The Park and Recreation Department pays for the program and to pay them, they use this grant form to get the money into the checking account. This is what they do.

Councilwoman Bartolotta states she has a question regarding Saloon Brewing; Mr. Warner comes forward. She asks what the company is. Is it a new company. Mr. Warner responds it is a new company that manufactures beer; a microbrewery. It is a start-up and they have to be licensed under the federal ATF (Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms). It is a good use for them. Councilman Klattenberg states this is a City building and are there any ordinances about alcohol. Mr. Warner responds it is City parks and we own the restaurant in Harbor Park and we have made adjustments. They can sell it in growlers and they can fill it up and you can take it with you. Consumption is tasting and limited. Councilman Klattenberg asks if there was a business plan. Mr. Warner states they talked to a lot of people. We have two breweries to move in there. Councilman Klattenberg states it is great and offers a unique opportunity. In our ordinances, he asks if there is a sticking point. Mr. Warner states we own the Canoe Club and they sell beer. Councilwoman Bartolotta states she did not review the ordinances and wanted to confirm this. There is no regulatory responsibility on this. Mr. Warner states the Health Department will classify it as food and they may require a license. They will need a permit from Consumer Protection and Alcohol Firearms and Drugs.

Councilwoman Kasper states authorizing the Mayor to enter into the lease. Mr. Warner responds it is 1800 sq. ft. at \$4, about \$12,000 a year. They will spend \$41,000 building out their space. They will get a rent credit for the renovation of their space. Councilman Pessina asks will it be run like Magic Hat, with a reception area. Mr. Warner responds it will be a small one.

The Acting Chair asks if there are other questions to other directors.

Councilman Berch asks to address questions to Bruce Driska of Emergency Management. He asks about the appropriation for \$5,740, and asks has the avenue of a grant been sought with regard to paying for the items. Mr. Driska states they looked at a grant to qualify for the items; however, the item will be addressed through other funding and you will be asked to vote the appropriation down.

Meeting Adjourns

Councilman Pessina moves to adjourn; his motion is seconded by Councilman Bibisi. The Acting Chair calls the vote and it is unanimous with eleven aye votes to adjourn. Councilman Daley is not in the chamber for this vote. The Acting Chair declares the meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

ATTEST:

MARIE O NORWOOD
Common Council Clerk